



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT District of Minnesota

Richard D. Sletten, Clerk

Warren E. Burger Federal  
Building and U.S. Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 848-1100

U.S. Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Suite 202  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 664-5000

Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building  
and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse  
515 West First Street  
Suite 417  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 529-3500

Edward J. Devitt U.S. Courthouse  
and Federal Building  
118 South Mill Street  
Suite 212  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218) 739-5758

January 11, 2017

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### Celebrating the Second Founding *150 Years After Passage of the Reconstruction Amendments*

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – On **January 31, 2017**, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Reconstruction Amendments to the United States Constitution, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, the Federal Bar Association, the League of Women Voters Bloomington, and Normandale Community College will host a screening of the Emmy-nominated film **“American Denial.”**

The Reconstruction Amendments fundamentally changed our Republic and established equality as central to our constitutional order. The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolished slavery, the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment established birthright citizenship and guaranteed equal protection of law, and the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment secured voting rights without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude. These Amendments were adopted between 1865 and 1870. After 150 years these Amendments continue to shape our present and our future. The Constitutional Accountability Center and the National Constitution Center call these amendments “The Second Founding, “because they are the constitutional embodiment of what President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address called “a new birth of freedom”.

**“American Denial”** is a documentary that presents the work of Swedish researcher Gunnar Myrdal, who in the 1930's and 1940's studied social conditions in the Jim Crow South. The film uses Myrdal's insights to pose provocative questions about whether and to what extent social conditions have changed for Americans today. The film screening will begin at 6 pm, followed by a panel discussion featuring the film’s director, Llewellyn Smith; The Honorable Tanya M. Bransford, Hennepin County District Court Judge and Co-Chair and founding member of the Committee for Equality and Justice with the Minnesota Judiciary; Donald M. Lewis, former federal prosecutor and special prosecutor in the investigation of the shooting of Philando Castille; Lisa Rude, American History instructor at Normandale Community College; and Ivery Baynham, MCTC student and member of "Repurposed". The moderator is Lissa Jones, Executive Producer and Host of Urban Agenda, on 89.9 FM KMOJ. Entertainment by

Repurposed, a group of musicians, spoken word artists, and Hennepin County probationees, will precede the film screening.

The event will be held at Normandale Community College, Dale Lorenz Auditorium, Fine Arts Building, #F-1265.

**NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Dale Lorenz Auditorium, Fine Arts Building, #F-1265  
Second Founding Competition Kickoff



**American Denial**      **January 31, 2017**

Free Film Screening, Food, Refreshments, & Panel Discussion  
5 PM - Open reception with entertainment by Repurposed  
6 PM - American Denial screening & discussion

Sponsored by:  
US District Court, District of Minnesota  
The Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association  
League of Woman Voters - Bloomington  
Normandale Community College

For Questions: (612) 664-5110